

Maude Closson Talley House
206 Logan Blvd.
Llysven Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5895

HABS
PA.
7-ALTO,
153 -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MAUDE CLOSSON TALLEY HOUSE

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Location: 206 Logan Blvd.

Date of Erection: 1907

Description: The "Llyswen cottage" has several incarnations, but this is one of a very few examples obviously derivative of the Beezer model established at 306 and 308 Logan Blvd., and possibly based upon plans for model suburban cottages drawn up by the Beezer Brothers firm and familiar to local contractors. This two-story wood-frame house has a side gable roof with a clean rake and no eave at the rear. Because of the L-shaped plan, the second story has a prominent front gable with cornice returns. The roof line extended to incorporate the front porch not only enhances the compact, upright character of the house, but also provides the ground for a three-sided dormer with bevelled glass in the multiple panes of the upper window sash. Paired, tapered columns on square brick piers linked by a delicately spindled rail support the porch roof. The first story has a painted brick veneer, with brick segmental arches over the entry and windows. Sidelights complete the front door surround. The second story is clad in wood shingles, and the slight flare at the first-story juncture enhances the overall "cottage" effect. There are three rooms and a hallway on both floors.

History: Caleb H. Closson, a physician, purchased this lot in 1906 in the name of his daughter, Maude, for \$750. The house was completed by 1907 and occupied by Maude and her parents. Not long after, Maude, who was a nurse, left to marry Dr. Frank Talley of Pittsburgh, but within months she was widowed. The 1912-13 city directory lists Kate Closson, Caleb's widow, and Maude Talley as the residents of 206 Logan Blvd. By 1930 Maude was alone in the house, but soon thereafter met and married Clyde Jones, a letter carrier, who continued to live in the house after her death. In 1953 he began to rent the house out. After his death in 1967, Jones's heirs sold the property to an Altoona Area School District teacher and his wife for \$9,000. Somewhat neglected as a rental property, the house was gradually restored by a succession of owners in the 1970s. By 1978 it sold for \$31,300. The current owners bought it in 1984.

Sources: Maps: 1901, 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 160/432, 704/284, 865/542, 916/3, 1015/570, 1104/481. Interviews: Kirk and Shawn Leidy, 204 Logan Blvd., July 15, 1989. Melvin and Sissy Kedane, 206 Logan Blvd., July 15, 1989. Bob and Leone Schmittle, 211 Coleridge Ave., August 15, 1989.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.